

Big Van Vader regained the WCW title from Sting on March 17th in Dublin, Ireland. So in a span of a week the title went from Vader to Sting and back again. I think this was a good move as it will keep the interest overseas in the American product since the fans there will believe anything can happen.Tony Aragona, Paul Spiegel (sub for no-show Chris Qualmann) and myself attended a WWF card in Lakeland at the Civic Center on 3/19. Here's the report: 1) Raymond Rougeau beat Brooklyn Brawler in 8:03. At one point Brawler yelled, "Do you think an announcer is going to beat me?" Dud 2) Nasty Boys and the Head Shrinkers went to a double DQ at 11:09. Not as good as their concession stand mustard fight seen on Raw last week. George Steele, Jerry Briscoe, and two other refs came down to break up the brawl. ***¹/₂ 3) Skinner upended Koko Ware in 6:15 when Ware hit a flying bodypress but Skinner rolled over on top for the win. Dud 4) Bob Backlund used a roll-up and bridge to pin Kim Chee in 6:31. Real bad. -*** 5) Hulk Hogan & Brutus Beefcake defeated Ted DiBiase & I.R.S. in a non-title match in 10:07. This was a bonus match that was announced in the middle of the card. I'm assuming they wanted to do a dry run of the bout before Wrestlemania. Hogan got a good pop and looks nowhere near as big as he use to be. The lady sitting next to me was actually in shock at how different he looked. I told her, "That's what getting off steroids will do for you." She answered, "Yeah, that could be it." No lady, that IS it. Beefcake didn't wear his bionic mask. This was DiBiase's first bout back after his disc problem. He looked good. The heels collided and Hogan rolled up I.R.S. for the pin. *³/₄ 6) Bam Bam Bigelow over Kamala via count out in 8:16. Bam Bam attacked Slick at ringside and the Ugandan went out to help him which got him counted out. Dud 7) Typhoon splashed Cuban Terrorist in :52. Cuban was David Sierra under a hood. What was the point of this match? They had nine bouts with this one. Not like they were giving a pushed wrestler a quick squash or anything. A waste of 54 seconds. -* 8) Crush made Papa Shango submit to the atomic noogie in 7:14. Shango was a sub for Shawn Michaels. * 9) Bret Hart & Mr. Perfect defeated Razor Ramon & Lex Luger in 14:08. Good match with all four looking good especially the faces. Luger is bigger than Hogan. Bret Hart got a bigger pop than Hulk which I enjoyed. As all four were brawling Bret pinned Ramon. ***. I'll estimate the attendance at 3,500. Overall not a very good card and it was made less of one by this moron sitting directly behind me who took offense to the three of us talking during the show. It was like this guy couldn't concentrate on the wrestling since we were talking. At one point, Paul Spiegel mentioned the name Jimmy Backlund and the guy spazzed out and told some people behind him, "Can you believe these guys are talking about Bachman-Turner Overdrive?" I turned around after another complaint to his woman about our talking and asked him if he thought we were in a movie theatre. Halfway through the card we moved down three seats as I didn't trust the guy sitting directly behind me as I figured he'd take a swipe at me. He had a real high IQ too. He insisted DiBiase was Cuban and was yelling "You fu foreigners at the Samoans along with some other gems. ...When Spiegel first arrived at the building we mentioned how the crowd looked real good. He claimed it was because all the names were here. Tony corrected him and said Michaels wasn't and Paul said, "That's right. Shawn Michaels has left the building." ...Bigelow was out of character right before his match as he had the curtain to backstage open and talking with the fans.....The following night (3/20) Tony and I drove the two hour trek to Jacksonville to meet up with reader Richard Stafford (sub again for Chris Qualmann who was in L.A. for Cauliflower Alley) for a WCW card. Here's the report: 1) Brad Armstrong beat Buddy Lee Parker with a russian leg sweep in 12:47. A real hot opener as Parker worked the crowd and they then got into chanting for Brad. ***¹/₄ 2) Marcus Bagwell & Erik Watts over Shanghi Pierce & Tex Slazenger in 16:13. Erik really looks a lot happier than he use to. Probably because the pressure is off and he can develop at his own pace. He looked the best I've seen him tonight. Bagwell has improved tremendously and I'm looking forward to him and Scorpio's bouts with Pillman and Austin. There was a guy in the front row chucking the Texans the finger and Tony exclaimed, "Look, it's Joel Watts." Bagwell pinned Pierce after a clothesline which culminated a reverse whip by the heels. *** I haven't lost it. It really was a good bout. 3) Vinnie Vegas and Van Hammer went to a double count out in 11:40. The ref then reversed the decision because Vegas hit Hammer after the bell so Vinnie got DQ'd. Pretty much a bullshit call. Back to reality. *¹/₂ 4) Rick Rude & Paul Orndorff over Davey Boy Smith & Steve Regal in 21:12. Regal subbed for Dustin Rhodes who was announced as injured. Too bad, they needed Dustin to make this a hot bout. Smith looked like crap. He didn't do much. Six minutes before any contact as Bulldog and Rude were posing down. Tony was chanting Icopro at Bulldog. Finish was good as Regal missed a dropkick off the ropes and Rude hit him with a Rude Awakening. * 5) Ricky Steamboat, Shane Douglas, & Cactus Jack beat Brian Pillman, Steve